

REGION 10—MARINE

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The first two thirds of summer 2009 were cool and wet, and many observers reported poor breeding success for various different kinds of birds. June's mean temperature was 65.4°, 3.1° below normal, and precipitation was 4" above normal at 7.71". July temperatures were 3.8° below normal at a mean of 70.8° and the wet trend continued as well with 6.52" of rain falling, 3.59" above normal. In August the mean temperature was 74.7°, 1.6° above normal, and precipitation totaled only 0.68", 3.80" below normal. All weather data are from Islip, as reported by the NOAA website.

The passage of Hurricane *Bill* well to our east on 22-23 August had few obvious effects on our bird life, the most likely exceptions involving unusually large and early aggregations of Lesser Black-backed Gulls (see note by Brendan Fogarty elsewhere in this issue), a couple of Hudsonian Godwits, and an extremely cooperative—and tired-looking—adult Red-necked Phalarope at Jamaica Bay's East Pond. A week later, the grossly overhyped *Danny* proved almost comically effete to savvy storm-birders, vanishing as a named entity from the weather maps just as he was poised to influence our Region. A widespread buildup of Black Terns, a curious west to east passage of *Sterna* terns, and some more Lesser Black-backed Gulls were his most obvious effects.

One of this summer's most memorable aspects was the persistent presence of large numbers of seabirds within sight of Long Island's outer beaches. Modestly productive seawatches during late May and early June shifted abruptly into high gear on 18 June with the arrival of hundreds of Cory's and dozens of Greater Shearwaters. The numbers of Cory's observed that day, 300+ from Robert Moses SP and 100+ from Shinnecock Inlet, almost all moving steadily from west to east, were without precedent so early in the season, as were 2,500+ Cory's from Montauk Pt. on 8 July. Manx Shearwaters were reported multiple times from each of several outer coast sites, heightening suspicions of possible nesting in the Region. Seawatchers reported good numbers of immature Northern Gannets throughout the summer. The season's highest tally of 89 at Fire Island on 19 June included a single adult and was roughly double last summer's maximum. This kind of variability in numbers between years is typical for many species of seabirds, tied as they are to the even more highly variable distributions of fish such as sand launces.

We also enjoyed a wealth of offshore seabird data this season from a series of short-distance whale-watches out of Montauk and from dedicated deepwater runs to Hudson and Block Canyons out of Belmar, NJ, and Pt. Judith, RI, respectively. Not surprisingly, given the season's exceptionally productive shore-based seawatches, these organized trips produced consistently good numbers of Cory's and Greater Shearwaters and Wilson's Storm-Petrels as well as a smattering of Sooty and Manx Shearwaters, Black Terns, Parasitic Jaegers, and both sea-faring phalaropes. Ironically, both canyon runs yielded fewer Cory's and Greaters than a typical near-shore whale-watch, but both scored multiple **Audubon's Shearwaters**—eight near Hudson Canyon and a remarkable **26** in the waters 10-30 miles north of Block Canyon. Long fraught with intrigue, New York State's ornithological claims to these two canyons could be effectively mooted if the Empire State continues to lag behind its maritime rivals in chartering dedicated birding trips to these productive destinations. Countering this trend almost single-handedly was John Shemilt, whose frequent fishing trips toward Block Canyon and superb photography continue to amaze veteran observers and to fill in gaps in our knowledge of Long Island's pelagic birdlife. In addition to lots of **Audubon's Shearwaters**, John documented **Leach's** and **White-faced Storm-Petrels**, **South Polar Skua**, Pomarine Jaeger, and unseasonal Dovekies. See John's photos of several of these birds on p. 353.

Possibly a first for the state, an apparent **Yellow-legged Gull** was closely photographed at Robert Moses SP on 4 June. The uncertainty concerning this first-summer gull's identity arises from the lack of definite data concerning the appearance of this age class in various hybrid combinations, but experienced commentators were remarkably consistent in stressing the bird's close resemblance to Yellow-legged Gull.

Following publication of a re-evaluation of its status in NYS (KB 59: 2-15), non-breeding **Arctic Terns** were sought more avidly and more widely than ever this summer, with predictably favorable results. At least nine individuals were documented around the ocean inlets between 7 June and 10 July, from Democrat Pt. to Mecox Bay. Of these, four were first-summer birds, one was a "typical" second-summer type, and four were adult-like birds showing more subtle deviations from definitive alternate plumage. The actual number of individuals observed this summer might have been as many as 16, because conservative assumptions were applied to undocumented reports and to reports of similarly plumaged birds reported from a given site on similar dates but whose individual identities were not rigorously assessed. Only one individual demonstrably persisted for more than a day, the second-summer type photographed near Moriches Inlet on 13 & 21 June.

Without question the most impressive breeding record of the season was Region 10's **first confirmed nesting of Black Vulture**, at Fort Wadsworth, Staten Island. On 16 July 2009, Dave Taft and Jason Wickersty videotaped an adult and a nestling in an abandoned embrasure (see video still, p. 398). For the first time in several summers, a territorial **Black Rail** was detected in the Region, this time at Napeague. Also of note was Chip Hamilton's observation of

an American Bittern at a DEC wetland in central Nassau County on 29 July. On a negative note, saltmarsh nesting birds (terns, Willets, etc.) experienced near total breeding failure this season (A. Graves pers. comm., R. O. Paxton, pers. comm., pers. obs.).

The number and diversity of shorebirds overwintering in our Region were comparable to most recent years. The first returning migrants were noted a tad early on 26 June, but the expected early-season peaks of adults seldom reached typical levels—e.g., 330 Least Sandpipers vs. the usual 500+ at favorable sites and 780 Short-billed Dowitchers vs. the usual 1,500+. Lesser Yellowlegs peaked at a normal-looking 275 at Jamaica Bay, but this concentration came two weeks late on 4 August and included juveniles as well as adults. One exception to this pattern was a very healthy tally of 4,150 Semipalmated Sandpipers at Jamaica Bay on 5 August. Most observers agreed that the southbound shorebird migration was weak overall and that juveniles of arctic-breeding species were both late and very sparse.

A banding study of breeding landbirds at Fort Tilden on Queens County's Rockaway barrier beach yielded several noteworthy insights. For the second consecutive summer, a male Northern Bobwhite sang here across a range of dates and was answered by a second bird giving a contact call at least once. Another male sang persistently at Robert Moses SP on Fire Island on 18 June and thereafter, and others were reported on more easterly barrier beaches near Cupsogue and Mecox Bay. This species is local and declining on Long Island's mainland, with strongholds in east-central Suffolk County and on the North Fork. Away from these places, a large proportion of recent N. Bobwhite records have come from the barrier beaches—a series of records from the Fire Island Lighthouse Tract 1996-1998, including females as well as singing males; as many as 20 at Smith Pt. near the eastern tip of Fire Island on 2 Oct 2001; and a series of records covering all seasons from Dune Rd. between Moriches and Shinnecock Inlets, including a covey of 12 near Cupsogue on 5 Feb 2000. The origins of these birds are debatable, but perhaps no more so than those of the remaining mainland populations, many/most/all of which are suspected to derive at least in part from latter day releases.

Another interesting sight at Fort Tilden in recent summers has been the presence of Yellow-billed Cuckoos. This species is more numerous and widespread than Black-billed Cuckoo as a breeder on the Long Island mainland, but the latter is the species that breeds in maritime shrublands on the immediate coast. It is possible that the Fort Tilden Yellow-bills simply represent summer wanderers, but their year to year occurrence forces attention to the puzzle of these species' peculiar geographic and habitat preferences in our Region.

Finally, for the third summer in a row, a molt-migrant Worm-eating Warbler was captured at Fort Tilden, an adult in heavy molt on 27 July (see KB 58: 348-349). Considering that, apart from Gray Catbirds, this small-scale study captures only 40-80 birds per season, and considering also how infrequently Worm-eating Warblers occur on Long Island as southbound migrants, the regularity with which molt-migrants have been detected on the barrier beach

deserves attention. Curiously, there were several additional odd dates and locations for this species throughout the Region this summer.

Other Highlights, not mentioned above, included a spate of Brown Pelicans mid June to late July, a **White-faced Ibis** at Jamaica Bay, a **Sandhill Crane** at Orient during early June, and early **Red Phalaropes** off of Montauk on **25 Aug.**, several reports of **Sandwich Terns** from eastern Long Island, continuing **Common Ravens** in northern Long Island near the Queens-Nassau line, and a **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** on Staten Island.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

APP – Alley Pd P QUEE; BHP – Blue Heron Pd P RICH; CCP – Cupsogue County P SUFF; CHP – Conference House P RICH; CLP – Clove Lakes P RICH; CP – Central P; DOP – Dreier Offerman P KING; EH – East Hampton SUFF; FBF – Floyd Bennett Field KING; FP – Forest P QUEE; FT – Fort Tilden QUEE; GKP – Great Kills P RICH; HLSP – Hempstead L SP NASS; HSP – Heckscher SP SUFF; Jam Bay – Jamaica Bay Wildlife Ref KING/QUEE; JBSP – Jones Beach SP; JBWE – Jones Beach West End; MB – Mecox Bay SUFF; MI – Moriches Inlet; MP – Montauk Pt SUFF; OMNSA – Oceanside Marine Nature Study Area NASS; PB – Pikes Beach SUFF; PP – Prospect P KING; RBA – NY Rare Bird Alert; RMSP – Robert Moses SP SUFF; Sagg –

Sagaponack Pd SUFF; Shinn – Shinnecock Inlet SUFF; SSNC – South Shore Nature Center SUFF; VSSP – Valley Stream SP NASS.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Brant: max 26 Plumb Beach, KING 19 Jun & 22 Jam Bay 19 Jul; smaller numbers noted City I, BRON, GKP, E. Rockaway, CCP, & Shinn.

Wood Duck: arr CP 26 Jul (DA).

Gadwall: e LI CCP 6 Jun (AGu *et al.*).

Blue-winged Teal: arr well documented at Jam Bay: 1 thru Jul, 12 on 19 Aug, & 125 on 27 Aug (DGo).

N. Shoveler: m Plumb Beach 13 Jun; arr CP 14 Aug.

N. Pintail: arr 3 Jam Bay 25 Aug (DGo).

Green-winged Teal: CP 31 Aug (TF), unus at site.

Ring-necked Duck: one PP thru 5 Jul (RJ, mob).

Greater Scaup: max 17 Jam Bay (J Drucker, L&R Fried) 14 Jun, 7 GKP 28 Jun (SIW), & 5 Dead Horse Bay, KING thru (R Bourque).

Com. Eider: imm m Hubbard CP, Flanders, SUFF 26 Jul (RBA), v unus site and date.

Surf Scoter: ad m RMSP 18 Jun (SSM); ad m Riis P 23 Jun (SSM), f Orient SP 9 Jul (JSe); f GKP 24 Jul.

White-winged Scoter: 1-3 Orient Harbor & vic 25 Jun-29 Jul; 2-3 Montauk 25-30 Aug.

Black Scoter: m Riis P 19 Jun; m RMSP 19 Jun (TWB *et al.*); 1-2 GKP 28 Jun-10 Jul (SZ).

Long-tailed Duck: m Northport 3 Jun; 1-2 GKP 9 Jun-10 Jul (SZ); Southold 12 Jul (JSe); Orient Harbor 23 Jul (JSe).

Hooded Merganser: f CLP 9 Jul (CB).

Red-breasted Merganser: 2 Shinn 5 Aug (CMcD *et al.*).

Ruddy Duck: GKP 28 Jun.

N. Bobwhite: m s HSP 12 & 16 Jun (P JL); m s FT 16 Jun, 23 Jun, & 7 Jul (JGo, SSM); m s Eastport 16 Jun (DF); m s RMSP 18-21 Jun (SSM *et al.*); m Wainscott 24 Jun (ESc); Orient SP 9 Jul; CCP 17 Aug (TJ); 9 MB 16 Aug (DSc); *intro*.

Red-throated Loon: alt Inwood Hill P 11 Jun (M Alomeri); 3 Amagansett 21 Jun (AnW); 2 Ft Wadsworth, RICH 30 Jun (CB); CCP 10 Jul (DGo *et al.*).

Com. Loon: northbound migr cont thru 21 Jun; Amagansett 5 Jul (AnW); alt Horton's Pt, Southold (L&R Kedenburg).

N. Fulmar: 3 offshore from Montauk 28 Jun (T Garrecht ph).

Cory's Shearwater: arr Fire I Inlet 17 Jun (RJK); 300+ RMSP (SSM) & 100+ Shinn (A Baldelli) 18 Jun, record numbers for date; 442

Amagansett 3 Jul (AnW); max 2,500 MP 8 Jul (B Carlson, D Daniels); offshore: max 1,000 sse Shinn 27 Jun (JSh); 500 sse Shinn 4 Jul (JSh); just 18 on 8 Aug Belmar pelagic to Hudson Canyon (M Fritz *et al.*); several reports of 100-300 Jul-Aug Montauk whalewatches.

Greater Shearwater: arr 17 RMSP 18 Jun (SSM); 20 MP 17 Jul (BBE); max 300 MP 8 Jul (B Carlson, D Daniels); offshore: 750 sse Shinn 27 Jun (JSh); max 2,500 sse Shinn 4 Jul (JSh); just 19 on 8 Aug Belmar pelagic to Hudson Canyon (M Fritz *et al.*); several reports of 100-300 Jul-Aug Montauk whalewatches.

Sooty Shearwater: single digit counts from many ocean vantages thru Jun & Jul; westernmost Riis P 19 Jun (DGo); max from shore 19 RMSP 19 Jun (TB *et al.*); offshore max 20 Montauk whalewatch 5 Jul, small numbers offshore thru.

Manx Shearwater: RMSP reports inc 6 Jun (P JL), 2 on 18 Jun (SSM); 5 on 19 Jun (TWB *et al.*); Amagansett reports inc 2 on 20 Jun (AnW), 3 Jul (AnW), 5 Jul (AnW); MP reports inc 4 on 8 Jul (B Carlson, D Daniels), 2 on 18 Jul (AnW); CCP 18 Jul; offshore: 2 ca. 100 fathom line sse Shinn 4 Jul (JSh); several reports of singles from Montauk whalewatches.

AUDUBON'S SHEARWATER: 7 Block Canyon 25 Jul (JSh ph); 4 Block Canyon 2 Aug (JSh ph); 8 Hudson Canyon 8 Aug (M Fritz *et al.*); 25 ca. Block Canyon 15 Aug (JSh ph); 26 10-30 nm n Block Canyon 19 Aug (C Pedro, mob ph), some in RI waters.

Wilson's Storm-Petrel: max from shore 100+ Shinn 18 Jun (A Baldelli); 113 RMSP 19 Jun (TB *et al.*); 180 Amagansett 21 Jun (AnW); several reports from Riis P, Plumb Beach, and Raritan Bay, where unusual; several reports of 100-400 Montauk whalewatches.

WHITE-FACED STORM-PETREL: 1-2 ca. Block Canyon 16 Aug (JSh ph); 67 nm sse Shinn 17 Aug (JSh ph).

LEACH'S STORM-PETREL: 12 ca. 75 nm sse Shinn 27 Jun (JSh ph); 12 ca. 500 fathom line sse Shinn 4 Jul (JSh ph); 25 ca. Block Canyon 15 & 16 Aug (JSh ph), but none 17-18 Aug.

N. Gannet: max 80 RMSP 18 Jun (SSM), all imm; 89 RMSP 19 Jun (TWB *et al.*), one ad.

Brown Pelican: Great Gull I 13 Jun (JDi); Montauk 13 Jun (D Heglund); 2 CCP 18 Jul (A Baldelli, G Tudor); 5 FT 19 Jul; 5 CCP 22 Jul (DK, B May, J Cullen); 3 JBWE 24 Jul (BF); Riis P 25 Jul (RJ).

Am. Bittern: Jericho, NASS 29 Jul (C Hamilton), rare in summer.

Least Bittern: CHP 6 Jun (Rich McG); many reports of 1-2 inds Jam Bay 6 Jul thru, inc juv with down.

Little Blue Heron: max 11 Jam Bay 1 Aug (DGo); nested MI (SSM); ad & 2 juvs William Floyd Estate 23 Jul (MLL); few reports from elsewhere.

Tricolored Heron: max 2 Jam Bay 12 Jul & 22 Aug (DGo); few other reports; declining.

Cattle Egret: Grand Central Parkway, QUEE 22 Jun (SBI); Jam Bay 4 dates 4-18 Jul.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: max 11 OMNSA 23 Jun (SF).

WHITE-FACED IBIS: imm Jam Bay 13 Aug (TJ), details desired.

Black Vulture: Orient 8 Jun (JBrJr.); Greenport 28 Jul (J Levin); **nest with young** Fort Wadsworth, RICH 16 Jul (W Parker, D Taft, J Wickersty), 1st Reg breeding; *intro*.

Turkey Vulture: many reports thru Region and period, with concentrations North Fork, Calverton, & Gabreski Airport area; max 6 Northville 16 Jun (MLL); 6 Riverhead 25 Jun, & 15 Calverton 27 Jul; Plum I 26 Jun (MLL), notable loc.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: Jam Bay 1 Aug (VP); ad Carman's R 5 Aug; CP 31 Aug.

N. Harrier: arr CP 27 Aug.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: Laurel 12 Jun (JBrJr), rare in summer.

Cooper's Hawk: incr and widespread breeder, e.g., nests with yng SSNC 4 Jul (JGI) & William Floyd Estate 18 Jul (MLL), the latter a first for the site.

Broad-winged Hawk: PP 15 Aug (SWh, PD); arr CP 31 Aug.

Am. Kestrel: many nests in cornices of Manhattan buildings (DA); few breeding reports from Long Island, where core breeding area remains Calverton-Riverhead-North Fork; arr Jam Bay 27 Aug (DGo).

Merlin: PP 29 Jul (AxW); arr Jam Bay 20 Aug (RJK).

Peregrine Falcon: residents present Jam Bay, Jones Inlet, Fire I Inlet thru; Ponquogue Bridge, Shinn 10 Jun (L Lupo); many reports of disturbance to breeding and staging waterbirds along LI south shore.

SANDHILL CRANE (R10): Orient 2 & 7 Jun (Rob McG), 8 Jun (JBSr), & 15 Jun (*vide* D Taggart).

BLACK RAIL: m s Napeague three dates Jun-Jul (GB, TB, HM, AnW, B Carlson, D Daniels).

Clapper Rail: breeding confirmed Marine P & Plumb Beach (DGo).

Sora: Marine P 22 Jun-6 Jul (J&R Bourque); Herricks, NASS 7 Aug (B Belford ph), found dead; Jam Bay 14 Aug (KF) & 22 Aug (mob).

Com. Moorhen: ad Jam Bay 14 Jun (J Drucker).

Am. Coot: pr Aquebogue thru (A Baldelli); Jam Bay 12 Jul-12 Aug.

Black-bellied Plover: 160 Jam Bay 12 Aug; no juvs reported thru end of period.

Am. Golden-Plover: arr Jam Bay 12 Aug; several reports of 2-3 by month's end.

Semipalmated Plover: 110 Jam Bay 5 Aug.

Piping Plover: max 40 MI 10 Jul (DGo *et al.*).

Am. Oystercatcher: bred E Pd, Jam Bay; 53 E Pd Jam Bay 12 Aug, many for site; 104 JBWE 27 Jul (SyS).

Am. Avocet: Jam Bay 18 Jul (SBI); CCP 2 Aug (JGI); Sagg 7 Aug (J Ash, A Baldelli); Jam Bay 19 Aug, joined by another 27 Aug thru.

Spotted Sandpiper: arr PB 28 Jun (K&SF), no longer breeds at this and other similar sites in Region.

Solitary Sandpiper: max 4 Aquebogue 9 Aug (A Baldelli).

Greater Yellowlegs: arr 2 CP 26 Jun; max 150 Jam Bay 22 Aug.

"Eastern" Willet: post-breeding gangs inc 78 CCP 8 Jul, 185 CCP 18 Jul; single-digit counts by end of Aug; v few juvs this season.

"Western" Willet: arr ad alt CCP 4 Jul (PJJ, SSM); MB 11 Jul (HM); max 35 JBSP 29 Aug.

Lesser Yellowlegs: max 275 Jam Bay 4 Aug.

Upland Sandpiper: 8 Gabreski Airport 28 Jun (A Baldelli, V Pellegrino), inc yng with down; FBF 22 Aug (DGo).

Whimbrel: arr Shinn 28 Jun (SA, DK), widespread in small numbers thereafter; max 9 CCP 1 Aug (DF, D Gill) & 9 Cedar Pt, Southold 8 Aug (K Klecan).

Hudsonian Godwit: ads PB 23 Aug (KF *et al.*), Plumb Beach 25 Aug (DGo), & Jam Bay 27 Aug (DGo *et al.*), only reports.

Marbled Godwit: arr Jam Bay 28 Jul (DGo); MB 21 Aug (A Baldelli, HM); Jam Bay 19 Aug (TF) & 22 Aug (PD).

Ruddy Turnstone: 297 PB 3 Jun (B Young); mid-season max 19 MI 14 Jun (PJJ, SSM).

Red Knot: mid-season max 23 PB 14 Jun (PJJ); no large counts of migrants and few reports of juvs, e.g., one Jam Bay 22 Aug.

Sanderling: 464 PB 2 Jun (B Young); 650 JBSP 24 Jul (BF); 220 MB 14 Aug (AnW).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: mid-season max 301 MI 14 Jun (P JL, SSM); southbound max **4,150** Jam Bay 12 Aug (DGo).

Western Sandpiper: CCP 21 Jun (A Baldelli *et al.* ph), unus date; arr MB 11 Jul (HM); max 9 ads Jam Bay 9 Aug (mob); 11 juvs Jam Bay 27 Aug (DGo).

Least Sandpiper: max 330 Jam Bay 28 Jul, late and low; max count of juvs 160 Jam Bay 22 Aug, late and low.

White-rumped Sandpiper: northbound max 21 PB 14 Jun (P JL); 7 Jam Bay 7 Jun (DGo); southbound arr 2 Jam Bay 5 Aug; max 25 Jam Bay 20-22 Aug.

Baird's Sandpiper: arr Jam Bay 23 Aug (SA, DK).

Pectoral Sandpiper: arr Jam Bay 28 Jul & HSP 29 Jul; max 9 Deep Hollow, Montauk 30 Aug (JGi).

Dunlin: mid-season max 8 MI 14 Jun (P JL, SSM).

Stilt Sandpiper: arr Jam Bay 18 Jul (SA); max 32 Jam Bay 1 Aug, low; first juv 15 Aug, late; away from Jam Bay and Sagg; ad HSP 3 Aug (P JL).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: arr ad Georgica PD 16 Aug (TJ ph), ads rare in Region.

Short-billed Dowitcher: mid-season max 12 MI 21 Jun (SSM *et al.*); arr 66 CCP 26 Jun (SSM), inc one *hendersoni*; southbound max 780 Jam Bay 6 Aug, all ads, late and low; ad PP 21 Jul (RJ), only 2nd ever for site; no large counts of juvs.

Long-billed Dowitcher: ad alt CCP 25 Jul (SSM *et al.*); single ads Jam Bay 28 Jul & later; max 2 Jam Bay 4 Aug; first juv Jam Bay 20 Aug.

Wilson's Phalarope: arr Jam Bay 15 Aug (SA); max 3 Jam Bay 22 Aug.

Red-necked Phalarope: ad Jam Bay 26-27 Aug (mob).

RED PHALAROPE (R10): 5 Montauk pelagic **25 Aug** (SA, RJK, DK, BR), v early.

Black-legged Kittiwake: juv Main Beach, EH (AnW).

Bonaparte's Gull: SY MB 28 Jun-4 Jul; SY CCP 4 Jul (P JL *et al.*); Nickerson Beach 11 Jul (BBe).

Laughing Gull: early concentrations e LI inc 100 MP 12 Jun (AnW) & 17 Cutchogue 28 Jun (JBrJr).

Ring-billed Gull: juv CCP 18 Jul (SSM).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: SY resembling *Larus michahellis* (Yellow-legged Gull) RMSP 4 Jun (SSM ph), *intro.*; TY RMSP 4 Jun (SSM ph); SY Tiana Beach 21 Jun (P JL, SSM ph, *et al.*); SY RMSP 8 Jul (SSM ph); SY JBSP 9 Jul (BF); SY JBSP 27 Jul (SyS); 6 MB 21

Aug (HM); **12** JBSP 24 Aug (BF); **9** JBSP 29 Aug (SA, SSM, *et al.*); ad EH 29 Aug (AnW); *intro.*, also p. 337 this issue.

Gull-billed Tern: pr JBWE 23 Jun-25 Jul; unprecedented numbers at Jam Bay: 3 on 7 Jun, **13** on 26 Jul, **24** on 31 Jul, & **12** on 1 Aug (DGo! ph, mob), all ads; see spring 2009 report.

Caspian Tern: CCP 4 Jul (P JL, SSM), PB 10 Jul (DGo *et al.*), PB 22 Jul (DK *et al.*), unus dates; Jam Bay 10 Aug (A Baksh); Captree SP 28 Aug (SSM).

Black Tern: Tiana Beach 2 Jun; Shinn 6 Jun; ad RMSP 18 Jun (SSM); ad RMSP 19 Jun (TWB *et al.*); ads CCP 10, 18, 25 Jul (mob); 4 CCP 1 Aug (DF, D Gill); 2 10 mi s MP 5 Aug (mob); 2 Jam Bay 5 Aug; widely reported after 5 Aug; major influx 29 Aug, under *Danny's* influence: 8 Plumb Beach (DGo), 8 JBWE (SA *et al.*), one at Tobay (SA *et al.*), 7 RMSP (SA *et al.*), 11 Main Beach, EH (AnW), & **200** Napeague (AnW); max **261** Napeague Harbor 30 Aug (AnW), comparable to high counts of 1998 & 1999.

Roseate Tern: present DP, CCP, Shinn, and points east; major west to east flight 29 Aug: 8 JBWE, 40 RMSP, 326 Main Beach, EH (AnW).

Com. Tern: 12 SY CCP 4 Jul (SSM), max for age-group; major west to east flight 29 Aug: 450 JBWE, 1,423 Main Beach, EH (AnW); 1,043 DP 30 Aug (SSM *et al.*), still moving e.

ARCTIC TERN: about 9 records: arr ad-like CCP 7 Jun (SWh ph); TY CCP 13 (P JL, SSM ph) & 21 Jun (P JL, SSM ph, *et al.* ph); ad-like DP 19 Jun (SSM ph); SY MB 29 Jun (ESc ph); ad-like & 2 SY CCP 3 Jul (JGI ph, SWh ph); 2 SY present 4 Jul also; SY MB 8 Jul (JSh ph); ad-like CCP 10 Jul (SBI, DG ph, *et al.* ph); *intro.*

Forster's Tern: CCP reports ad alt 30 Jun (B Adamo, A Baldelli), SY 4 & 8 Jul (SSM), and TY & fresh juv 25 Jul (SSM); eastward dispersal by mid Aug, e.g., 25 Mecox 16 Aug (AnW), 19 Main Beach, EH (AnW).

Royal Tern: max 15 MB 4 Jul (HM) & 46 PB 9 Aug (A Baldelli *et al.*).

SANDWICH TERN: ad bas CCP 4 Jul (P JL, SSM ph *et al.*) & 25 Jul (P JL, SSM ph *et al.*); 2 MB 21 Aug (A. Baldelli, HM).

Black Skimmer: 450 Nickerson Beach 11 Jul (BBe), major colony; 423 inc 37 juvs Plumb Beach 25 Aug (DGo).

SOUTH POLAR SKUA: 42 nm sse Shinn 27 Jun (JSh ph); 23 nm sse Shinn 4 Jul (JSh).

Pomarine Jaeger: subadult 80 nm sse Shinn 4 Jul (JSh ph).

Parasitic Jaeger: all reports included: JBSP 6 Jun (GB, TB); CCP 6 Jun (GB, TWB); 2 ads East Hampton 7 Jun (AnW); subadult MP 12 Jun (AnW); ad Im RMSP 16 Jun (DK) & 18 Jun (SSM); Tiana Beach 18 Jun (A Baldelli); imm RMSP 19 Jun (TB *et al.*); subadult Amagansett 20 Jun (AnW); 3 subadults MP 21 Jun (AnW); ad Im RMSP 8 Jul (PJL, SSM); 3 MP 8 Jul (B Carlson, D Daniels); imm CCP 10 Jul (DGo *et al.*); ad Montauk whalewatch 27 Jul; 2 Montauk whalewatch 5 Aug (SSM *et al.*); 6 Main Beach, EH 29 Aug (A. Baldelli).
Dovekie: 2 birds, 51 nm & 62 nm sse Shinn 27 Jun (JSh ph); 74 nm sse Shinn 4 Jul (JSh ph).

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

Monk Parakeet: nesting Brooklyn 7 Jul (B Carlson, D Daniels); Riverhead 14 Aug.
Black-billed Cuckoo: Jam Bay 14 Jun (J Drucker); FT 23 Jun; Eastport 25 Jun (SyS).
Com. Nighthawk: Babylon 1 Jun (SF); 1-2 SI home 13-20 Jul (E Callahan); arr Quogue 3 Aug (ESc); max 100+ CP 23 CP (TF).
Chuck-will's-widow: breeders reported Westhampton & Napeague.
Whip-poor-will: breeders reported Westhampton & Napeague.
Chimney Swift: 45 CP 7 Aug (B Cacace).
Red-headed Woodpecker: CP 3 Jun (RDeC, mob); nested Calverton again this year: ads fd yng 17 Jun (B Adamo); ads with fledged juv 30 Jul (DGo, J Pawlicki); ads exchanging at nest hole 1 Aug (PJL *et al.*).

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Springs, East Hampton 6 Jun; CP 31 Aug (TF).
E. Wood-Pewee: late migr inc CCP 14 Jun & FT 23 Jun; present CP 1 Jun-5 Jul (DA); pr fledged 3 yng HLSP (S Schellenger); arr CP 12 Aug.
Acadian Flycatcher: CP 3 Jun; Gardiner Co P 4 Jun (JGI); BHP 6 Jun (HF); Wertheim NWR 7 Jun (D Taggart); Hoyt Farm, SUFF 8 Jun; FP 12 Jun (Karlo Mirth); PP 12 Jun (RJ); failed nest VSSP (BBe, MBa, *et al.*).
Alder Flycatcher: PP 3 Jun (AxW); William Floyd Estate (C Starace, S Swain).
Least Flycatcher: Jam Bay 7 Jun, late; 21 Jun Hunters Garden (A Baksh, C. Finger), plausible breeding site.
Great Crested Flycatcher: arr CP 9 Aug.
E. Kingbird: 12 migr Jam Bay 19 Aug; 15 migr CHP 19 Aug (RRV, L Manne); max 65 FBF 29 Aug (DGo).

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER: Fresh Kills x Richmond Ave., RICH 12 Jun (C Hagen).

Yellow-throated Vireo: Rocky Pt DEC 1 Jun (R Kaskan); PP 21 Jun (RJ); nested APP (EM, SWa); arr CP 31 Aug.

Warbling Vireo: s FT 16 Jun (JGo, SSM), unus loc.

Red-eyed Vireo: arr CP 12 Aug.

COMMON RAVEN (R10): FP 12 Jul (S Plust); 2 Roslyn Harbor 14 Aug (R Kedenburg); 2 Shu Swamp 22 Aug (SWa).

Horned Lark: breeders noted Grumman, Gabreski Airport, PB, north shore of Easthampton.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: arr CP 31 Aug.

Brown Creeper: Greenport 26 Jul (S Arnott Heaney).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr CP 12 Aug; max 20 CHP 19 Aug (RRV, L Manne).

Veery: arr CP 23 Aug.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: CP 1 Jun.

Am. Robin: albino HLSP 16 Jul (S Schellenger).

Cedar Waxwing: unusually numerous & widespread SI this season (MSh); max 80 CP (B Cacace), present there thru period.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: arr CP 9 Aug.

“Brewster’s” Warbler: CP 14 Aug (TF).

“Lawrence’s” Warbler: Jam Bay 14 Aug (KF).

Tennessee Warbler: arr 26 Aug.

Nashville Warbler: arr CP 31 Aug.

N. Parula: m s William Floyd Estate 7 Jun & carrying food 20 Jul (MLL), second year nesting there; arr CP 14 Aug.

Yellow Warbler: arr CP 17 Jul.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr CP 12 Aug.

Magnolia Warbler: arr CP 25 Aug.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr CP 31 Aug.

Black-throated Green Warbler: arr CP 29 Aug.

Blackburnian Warbler: m s FP 23 Jun (KM), late; arr CP 12 Aug.

Prairie Warbler: 10-12 Edgewood Pres DEC, Deer Park 1 Jun; arr CP 12 Aug.

Blackpoll Warbler: last William Floyd Estate 7 Jun (MLL); arr CP 30 Aug.

Black-and-white Warbler: first migr DOP 18 Jul (AxW) & CP 2 Aug (J Cole).

Am. Redstart: arr CP 7 Aug (B Cacace).

Prothonotary Warbler: DOP 29 Jun (SBI); PP 14 Aug (SWh).

Worm-eating Warbler: Rocky Pt DEC 1 Jun (R Kaskan); Riverhead 3 Jun; APP 21 Jun (SWa); FBF 28 Jun (PD); ad banded SSNC 9 Jul (SSM), prior to molt; molting ad b FT 27 Jul (JGo, SSM); *intro*.

Ovenbird: 1-2 s thru Jun APP (EM, SWa), where absent both Atlases; arr CP 6 Aug.

N. Waterthrush: arr CP 17 Jul; arr Jam Bay 28 Jul; max 12 Jam Bay 20 Aug.

Louisiana Waterthrush: CP 5 Jul; Greenport 25 Jul (G Rowsom); CLP 30 Jul (CB).

Kentucky Warbler: CP 23 Aug (M Van Vlack).

Mourning Warbler: FP 1 Jun; m CP 2 Jun; 4 PP 3 Jun; Jam Bay 7 Jun (T Preston); southbound arr CHP 19 Aug (RRV, L Manne).

Com. Yellowthroat: arr CP 12 Aug.

Hooded Warbler: m s North Sea 27 Jun; southbound arr CP 12 Aug (TF).

Wilson's Warbler: CP 3 Jul (DA, RDeC), unus date.

Canada Warbler: arr CP 8 Aug.

TOWHEES – WEAVERS

Vesper Sparrow: 1-3 Gabreski Airport 3-12 Jul (JGl, mob).

Savannah Sparrow: Northville nests mowed twice but 2 m still on terr 22 Jul (MLL).

Grasshopper Sparrow: breeders Grumman & Gabreski.

Lincoln's Sparrow: PP 3 Jun.

Dark-eyed Junco: s Snug Harbor, RICH 3 Jun (MSh), v unus date.

Summer Tanager: f Park Slope 1 Jun (R Campos); PP 25 Aug (SWh).

Scarlet Tanager: arr CP 16 Aug.

Blue Grosbeak: f & SY m Eastport 1-18 Jun plus one there 17 Jul, from spring; m Calverton 2 Jun (GF, JQ); f APP 9 Jun; m s Gabreski 3 Jul (R Kaskan); ad m Camp Hero, Montauk 30 Aug (JGi).

Indigo Bunting: PP thru 10 Jul (D Perry, RJ), possibly breeding.

Bobolink: arr CP 14 Aug (TF).

Baltimore Oriole: max 30 CHP 19 Aug (RRV, L Manne).

EXOTICS

Black Swan: Jam Bay 5 Aug thru (mob).



Black Vulture, Fort Wadsworth, Staten Island, 16 Jul 09. First confirmed Region 10 breeding record. Video still copyright Jason Wickersty, National Park Service.



Figure E. Clockwise from top: White-faced Storm-Petrel, 95 mi sse Shinnecock Inlet, 16 Aug 09; Leach's Storm-Petrel, 92 mi sse Shinnecock Inlet, 16 Aug 09; Pomarine Jaeger, 92 mi sse Shinnecock Inlet, 3 Jul 09; South Polar Skua, 48 mi sse Shinnecock Inlet, 27 Jun 09; Audubon's Shearwater, 82 mi sse Shinnecock Inlet, 16 Aug 09; all © John Shemilt.



Figure F. Lesser Black-backed Gulls, 3 of 13 present at Jones Beach SP, Nassau Co., 24 Aug 09, © Brendan Fogarty. See Notes and Observations, p. 338.